

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A bridging clutch for a hydrodynamic torque converter, said bridging
2 clutch comprising:
3 a first converter component having a first friction area; and
4 a friction lining carrier carrying a first friction lining, wherein said first
5 friction lining and said first friction area can be shifted into working connection by means
6 of an engaging movement and can be separated by means of a disengaging movement,
7 said first friction lining having a radially inner side provided with at least one radially
8 inward facing first opening with an inflow area and an outflow area for the passage of
9 transport medium, each said first opening being open continuously between said inflow
10 area and said outflow area.

1 2. A bridging clutch as in claim 1 wherein said friction lining carrier has
2 at least one recess aligned with a respective said at least one opening, each said
3 recess essentially conforming to the respective said opening in shape and dimensions.

1 3. A bridging clutch as in claim 1 wherein said friction lining carrier has
2 at least one recess aligned with a respective said at least one opening, each said
3 recess essentially conforming to the respective said opening in shape, but having
4 smaller dimensions than the opening.

1 4. A bridging clutch as in claim 1 further comprising a second
2 converter component having a second friction area, said friction lining carrier carrying a

3 second friction lining and being situated axially between said first and second converter
4 components so that second friction lining and said second friction area can be shifted
5 into working connection by means of said engaging movement and can be separated by
6 means of said disengaging movement, said second friction lining having a radially inner
7 side provided with at least one radially inward facing second opening with an inflow area
8 and an outflow area for the passage of transport medium, each said second opening
9 being open continuously between said inflow area and said outflow area, each said
10 second opening being axially aligned with a respective said first opening, said carrier
11 having at least one recess which forms a flow connection between respective said first
12 and second openings.

1 5. A bridging clutch as in claim 4 wherein each said recess is located
2 within a circumferential area over which the respective said openings extend.

1 6. A bridging clutch as in claim 1 wherein said friction lining carrier is
2 free of interruptions in an area over which each opening extends.

1 7. A bridging clutch as in claim 1 further comprising a second
2 converter component having a second friction area, said friction lining carrier carrying a
3 second friction lining which is axially opposed from said first friction lining, wherein said
4 second friction lining and said first friction area can be shifted into working connection
5 by means of said engaging movement and can be separated by means of said
6 disengaging movement, said second friction lining having a radially inner side provided
7 with at least one radially inward facing second opening with an inflow area and an

8 outflow area for the passage of transport medium, each said second opening being
9 open continuously between said inflow area and said outflow area.

1 8. A bridging clutch as in claim 7 wherein said friction lining carrier has
2 an annular shape with an inner circumference, each said first opening being axially
3 aligned with a respective said second opening and being shaped and dimensioned as
4 the axially aligned second opening, whereby a flow connection is established between
5 the openings at said inner circumference of said carrier.

1 9. A bridging clutch as in claim 1 wherein each said opening in the
2 friction lining has a radially outer contour which proceeds radially inward in opposite
3 circumferential directions from a crest point to said inflow area and said outflow area,
4 wherein the friction lining does not have a radial boundary for the opening on the
5 radially inner side of the outer contour of the opening.

1 10. A bridging clutch as in claim 9 wherein said friction lining carrier has
2 at least one recess aligned with a respective said at least one opening, each said
3 recess having a radially outer contour which proceeds radially inward in opposite
4 circumferential directions, wherein the friction lining carrier does not have a radial
5 boundary for the opening on the radially inner side of the outer contour of the recess.

1 11. A bridging clutch as in claim 10 wherein the radially outer contour of
2 each said recess is essentially coincident with the radially outer contour of the
3 respective opening.

1 12. A bridging clutch as in claim 10 wherein the crest point of the
2 radially outer contour of each said opening in the friction lining is radially outside of the
3 crest point of the respective recess in the friction lining carrier.

1 13. A bridging clutch as in claim 12 wherein the opening in each said
2 lining is circumferentially larger than the opening in the respective said recess.

1 14. A bridging clutch as in claim 12 wherein the radially outer contour of
2 each said opening terminates at its inflow and outflow area at the same radial points as
3 the outer contour of the respective said recess terminates at its inflow and outflow area.